

Real Love (2)

Romans 12:9,10 NLT Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.
10 Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other.

Real Love vs Pretend Love

50% of marriages end in divorce.

67% second marriages fail.

73% of 3rd marriages fail.

- How you live now will determine what you lug around later.
- The way you handle love issues in your life now, will determine what kind a future you will have.
 - **Sexual activity is like a piece of tape**, its meant to be stick once and to be stuck for entire life time.
- I am talking to the singles now, so much of marriage is about selection and what baggage is brought in.
 - Be the person you are meant to BE and you will attract the right person. Life attracts life!
 - And it's about what baggage is brought into the marriage by you two. You have to take these things to the cross!

REAL LOVE

Real Love is God's Love

Real Love is Covenant Love

Real Love is Choice Not a Feeling

Some of you are ready for a reset == hate what is bad for your marriage, hold tightly to what is good it

Romans 12:9,10 NLT Don't just pretend to love others. Really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good

Real Love is a Love that Forgives.

- 1) Love and Forgiveness are tightly bound.
 - a) 1 Peter 4:8 Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
 - i) "Deeply" (*ektenēs*, "stretched" or "strained") was used to describe the taut muscles of an athlete who strains to win a race.

Marriage is like a Long Distance Race.... It is the Ultimate AMAZING RACE

- ii) Heb. 12:1,2 “.... let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, **2** fixing our eyes on Jesus... For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hey married couples: the joy set before US is to FINISH STRONG!

To finish strong means you will have to keep pushing to love and you will have to take your offenses to the cross.

2) How can I forgive when it hurts so bad?

- a) Jesus said, “He that is forgiven of much loves much.”
- b) Mt 18:21 Peter asked Jesus Lord how many times must I forgive a person who sins against me in one day 7 times? Jesus says 7 times 70.
 - i) Then he tells the story of a King who wanted to settle some accounts with his servants. One owed him 10 thousand bags of gold! 100 million dollars! UNPAYABLE DEBT. The King demanded his wife and children become his servants for life. When the man begged for forgiven, the king cancelled the unpayable debt!
 - ii) Mt 18:35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”
- c) We can forgive our partners by remembering that Jesus has forgiven us of and unpayable debt!

Real Love is both Tough and Tender

Song of Solomon 2:15 NKJV Catch us the foxes, the little foxes that spoil the vines, For our vines *have* tender grapes.

1) Tough

- a) Marriage isn't for sissies!
 - i) Tough enough to handle the trials of the relationship.
 - ii) Tough enough to handle meddling in laws.
 - iii) Tough enough to confront inappropriate behavior and/or abuse.
 - (1) Sometimes real love means “caring enough to confront”
- b) Romans 12:9 NLT If you “... really love them. Hate what is wrong. Hold tightly to what is good.
 - i) Drugs abuse; Sexual Impurity; Pornography; Deceit and Lies; Abusive Alcohol Addictions
 - ii) Forgiveness doesn't mean you put up with destructive and abusive tendencies

2) Tender

- a) The vines of your marriage is loaded with tender grapes. And there are many little foxes in your life that want to destroy it.
 - i) Love in marriage is a delicate thing.

ii) It is possible to be tough on wrong behavior and tender toward you spouse.

b) Hardness of Hearts cause divorce

In Matthew 19:8 Jesus says the cause of divorce is the Hardness of Heart.

c) Real love is tough on evil, but stay tender toward God and your spouse.

i) Tender enough to let God work

ii) Tender enough to try again

iii) Tender enough to love again

Real Love is Love that Never Fails

1 Cor. 13:7,8 NIV Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

1) Love in and of itself is a success.

2) You never be closer to being Christ-like more than when you are loving someone who truly doesn't deserve it.

3) How do you determine success and failure?

a) The greatest sign of success for Jesus was his victory on the cross!

Sin nailed Jesus to the cross, but love kept him there!

b) Our greatest sign of success is our cross.

Gal. 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. (can I say it this way: and it is Christ who lives in my and Christ who loves through me)

4) Loving someone with the real love of Jesus

a) It gives them a chance

b) It gives God a chance

c) It gives the marriage a chance.

Final: You are in one or two spots:

Some of you are ready to DO A RESET of your marriage.

Others have to deal with the baggage. You've lugging it around long enough. Get some help!